Th 2604

Amsterdam, November 23, 1987

Dear Sir/Madam,

in February 1988 the next meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission will be held in Geneva. It is very important that the human rights violations by the military regime of general Suharto will be brought to the fore at this occasion.

The present Indonesian regime came to power in 1965. The change of power from president Sukarno to president Suharto was attended with a lot of bloodshed; more than half a million people were killed, and 750.000 people were arrested, many to remain in jails and concentration camps for twenty years.

This bloody start of the present regime appears to have been symptomatic for the years to come. The violation of human rights in Indonesia must be a concern to the international community. In today's Indonesia there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of press, no free trade unions, no freedom of organisation, no protection of land rights, and death squads are still active.

Persons who make critical remarks on the regime are prosecuted (f.e. widely known became the case of Dharsono, member of the Petisi 50 group). According to Amnesty International, Indonesia is holding hundreds of prisoners of conscience, and since the execution of ten prisoners between January and September 1986, nineteen prisoners of conscience and at least five prisoners convicted of common crimes are still under sentence of death (source: Amnesty International Report No. 22, September 1987).

The situation of human rights in Indonesia is serious enough, but in the occupied nations of East Timor and West Papua the violation of human rights is indeed alarming. Against the peoples of these nations war is being waged.

In view of this, we would want to address the next meeting of the Un Human Rights Commission in Geneva coming February. Since only country members and accredited NGOs are officially allowed to speak at this forum, we would like to ask you if it is possible to transfer speaking time of your organisation to one of ours. It is our intention to ask several organisa-

tions to speak at the Commission's meeting, we would urgently request you to call attention to the dramatic situation caused by the Suharto regime in the field of human rights. We can supply you with detailed information on the situation of human rights in Indonesia, West Papua and East Timor if required.

In view of the time needed to prepare to go to Geneva, we hope you will answer our request as soon as possible.

On behalf of the participating organisations,

Viktor Kasiepo

The participating organisations are:
West Papua Volksfront/OPM, Deventer
Fretilin, Lisbon
Aksi Setiakawan, Amsterdam
Perhimpunan Indonesia, Amsterdam
Stichting Alexander Patty, Amsterdam

Copies of this letter have been sent to:

Pax Christi, The Hague/Geneva
Anti-Slavery Society, London
Pax Romana, Freibourg/Lisbon
National Aboriginal and Islander
Legal Service, Redfern
International Service for Human
Rights, Geneva
Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination,
Apartheid and Decolonization, Geneva